COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, *the* *16th of Karkadagam 1103.* / *31st of July 1928.*

The Council met at Half past Eleven of the Clock with the Diwan-President in the Chair. Messrs. Rao Sahib T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar and K. T. Mathew, Dr. A. R. Menon and Mr. Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Edavanakkad Panchayat.

11. Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article published in the paper '*Aikyam*' dated 13th Medam 1103 (25th April 1928) on page 8 with the heading 'Edavanakkad Panchayat';

(b) is it a fact that the election of the Panchayat Members took place in Vrischigam last;

(c) when were their names gazetted;

(d) have the Government nominated the two members who are to be filled by nomination;

(e) if so, when;

(f) if not, why this long delay;

(g) is it a fact that the old President is allowed to continue the management of the said Panchayat without members;

(h) if so, under what rules;

(i) what was the special reason for the delay in constituting the new Panchayat?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) In Mithunam 1103.

(d) Yes.

(e)&(f) In Mithunam 1103.

(g) Yes.

(h) There are no special rules on the subject. The practice is that the President is allowed to be in charge of the records, etc., till he is relieved by the new Panchayat.

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(i) The delay was due to the delay in getting replies from the persons proposed for nomination.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—May I know the date on which the election of the Panchayat members took place in the month of Vrischigam ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—7th of Vrischigam.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—What was the nomination date ? When was it published in the Gazette, or in which issue of the Gazette ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Gazette dated 3rd Mithunam.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Is it after the receipt of the interpellation from me, Sir?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It was sent to the Gazette long before that interpellation came in.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Were there any scarcity of persons to serve at least in the Panchayat ? It took more than 8 months, and the reasons stated are that the delay was due to the replies from persons proposed for nominations.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—A couple of reminders were sent and a special messenger was also sent to get a reply.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—To one and the same man or to others? If one is not willing, and does not respond to the call, why were not others tried ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Same man.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Why do you stick to the same man ? Is there scarcity of men ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Unless we get a reply, we cannot propose another.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Not responding means that he does not like the work. If members are willing, they might be running after the Panchayat Superintendent, and if they are not willing to give a reply, the presumption is that they are not willing.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The fact that the reply was not received does not mean that the member was not willing.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—For that reply, you took 8 months. On this ground, his name may be omitted. Why did not you try others also ? Even though you have approached him, he did not reply, and so you may veto it, and send for some other man. It is 8 months now.

Research works in the Agricultural Department.

12. Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) what steps were taken to provide laboratories for research works in the Agricultural Department;

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